

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

VOGT, RICHARD C. 1981. *Graptemys versa*.

***Graptemys versa* Stejneger**
Texas map turtle

Graptemys pseudogeographica versa Stejneger, 1925:463. Type-locality, "Austin, [Travis County] Texas." Holotype, U.S. Nat. Mus. 27473, adult male, collected by H. H. and C. S. Brimley, July, 1900 (examined by author).

Graptemys versa: Smith, 1946:60. First use of present combination.

Malaclemys versa: McDowell, 1964:274.

- CONTENT. *Graptemys versa* is a monotypic species.

- DEFINITION. *Graptemys versa* is a small turtle; females reach 183 mm in carapace length, males 112 mm. Distinct knobs are not present along the dorsal keel; each entire vertebral is slightly raised. The marginals, pleurals and vertebrae are convex, and the posterior marginals are strongly serrate. Each olive-green scute has one to 20 spots, each consisting of three to four concentric yellow circles with a yellow center. The pattern fades in adults. The hingeless yellow plastron is patterned with dark lines along the seams and the yellow bridge has a pattern of fine longitudinal bars.

The postorbital marks are yellow-orange on an olive-green ground color. Usually a distinct j-shaped mark starts posterior to the orbit, the hook extending posteriorly, rather than anteriorly as in *G. pseudogeographica*. Three to six narrow longitudinal yellow stripes make contact with the orbit. The neck is marked with a reticulum of yellow spots and lines. The lower part of the head and jaws are patterned with yellow flecks.

- DESCRIPTIONS. Detailed descriptions are given by Stejneger (1925), Carr (1949, 1952), Smith and Sanders (1952), Ernst and Barbour (1972), McKown (1972), and Conant (1975).

- ILLUSTRATIONS. Black and white photographs of adults occur in Smith and Sanders (1952) and Ernst and Barbour (1972). Ernst and Barbour (1972) and Conant (1975) present color illustrations of adults. Line drawings and photographs of head patterns are presented in Haynes and McKown (1974), and Vogt (1978). Ernst and Barbour (1972) show photographs of the skull.

- DISTRIBUTION: *Graptemys versa* occurs in the Colorado River Drainage primarily within the Edwards Plateau of west central Texas (see map). Though it is presumed to occur farther

downstream in the Colorado River, no records south of Bastrap County are available. Localities are given in: Brown (1950), Daugherty (1942), Marr (1944), McKown (1972), Olson (1967), Raun and Gehlbach (1972), Semken (1961), Smith and Sanders (1952), Stejneger (1925), Strecker (1909, 1930), Tinkle and Knopf (1964), and Vogt (1978).

- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

- PERTINENT LITERATURE. Ernst and Barbour (1972) came closest to giving a general account. Other important references are listed below by topics. Taxonomy and relationships: Smith (1946), Smith and Sanders (1952), Webb (1962), McKown (1972), Haynes and McKown (1974), and Vogt (1978). Blood proteins: McKown (1972). Karyotype: McKown (1972). Choanal structure: Parsons (1960, 1968). Shield variants: Zangerl (1969).

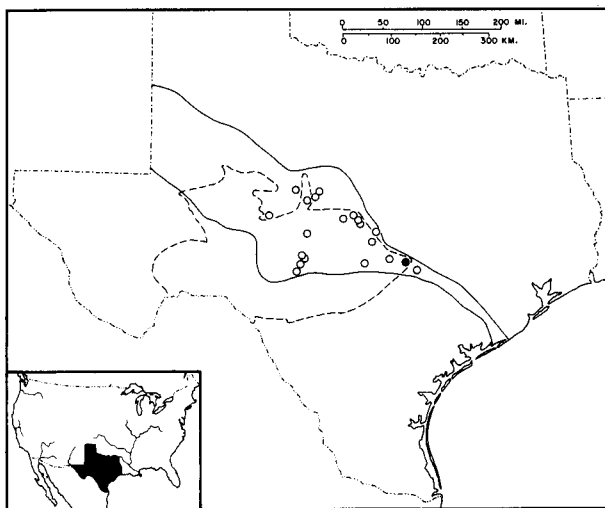
- ETYMOLOGY. The trivial name *versa* is from the Latin *vers* meaning to change, and probably refers to the head pattern differing from that of *G. pseudogeographica*.

COMMENT

Smith (1946) elevated *Graptemys versa* to full species status with sound judgement but no published data. The head markings are highly divergent from *Graptemys pseudogeographica* and *Graptemys ouachitensis*, although individuals of *G. o. sabinensis* from the Sabine River show similar dorsal head markings. The carapace shape and pattern differ from those of any other *Graptemys*. Haynes and McKown (1974) suggest *G. caglei* is intermediate between *G. versa* and *G. kohnii*, with no mention of *G. ouachitensis*. There is no evidence to show affinity of *G. caglei* with *G. versa*; head markings, carapace shape and markings, and skulls are significantly different.

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MAP. Closed circle marks the type-locality, open circles other localities. Solid line outlines the drainage of the Colorado R., broken line the limits of the Edwards Plateau.

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